

THANKS FOR THE BLOOMINGTON MEMORIES

HISTORY COMES ALIVE IN PHOTOS

Team sports and athletics have a long history in Bloomington. From school-organized youth sports to the opportunities offered by the Bloomington Athletic Association, *see page 2*, to the City's Parks and Recreation programs, Bloomington has always been the place to be for athletes of all skill levels and ages – just ask the Born Again Jocks, *see page 6*.

Bloomington resident Ron Atkinson has fond memories of his time playing on the Kennedy High School football team the Eagles. Atkinson posing with the Kennedy High School Eagles submitted the



photo, *above*. The photo was taken in September 1965, the same year the school opened. Just one year earlier, the ground where the young men were kneeling was farm land owned by the Johnson family.

This is just one of many photos the City has received since it began

seeking your photos. These images tell of Bloomington's rich history and bring to life many memories of the city's humble beginnings. To see more images like this one, visit the City's Facebook page. To submit your own Bloomington photos, visit the [City's website](#).

TH 169/I-494 INTERCHANGE COMPLETE

RECONSTRUCTION IMPROVES SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY OF HIGHWAY



One of the most significant traffic bottlenecks in the region is bottled up no more. The project was substantially completed this past November. The TH 169/I-494 reconstruction is the last of several projects that began more than 30 years ago to convert County Road 18 to TH 169.

The TH 169/I-494 interchange reconstruction improves safety and mobility along TH 169 by converting the expressway to a freeway. In addition, six new roundabouts were installed on the new frontage road system as part of the project. Three roundabouts are located directly north of I-494 and the other three are located directly south of I-494. The new design also improves safety

and traffic flow and benefits commuters and the surrounding community.

The project:

- Removed traffic signals along TH 169.
- Constructed flyover bridges, ramps and loops.
- Connected the north and south frontage roads under TH 169.
- Installed new drainage and water quality facilities.
- Added public utilities under TH 169 to further enhance the Bloomington sewer and water systems.

Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates played an instrumental role in seeing the TH169/I-494 project through to completion. The project was made possible through using a lower-

cost, multiphased, performance-based approach to minimize the impact on motorists. It still allows for additional ramps to be added in the future if needed. However, based on traffic modeling, Gates said it is unlikely additional ramps will be needed.

"This project has been a fine example of true partnership between the three affected cities, MnDOT, and the design-build contractor team, as well as the public's cooperation," he said.

"Many residents in the area went through the reconstruction of County Road 18 and the interchange. Their tolerance was very much appreciated."

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: 169 494 IMPROVEMENTS.



WHY ROUNDABOUTS?

Roundabouts have many benefits. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, when roundabouts are present, there is a nearly 40 percent decrease in all crashes and a nearly 90 percent decrease in fatal crashes.

Modern roundabouts are designed to maximize safety for motorists without the use of traffic signals. They have other benefits as well.

Roundabouts are capable of handling high levels of traffic with less delay than most stop signs or

signals. The design of roundabouts inherently slows traffic, which makes entering and exiting them easier and more efficient. Better fuel efficiency and air quality are other benefits of roundabouts. Research shows that where roundabouts replace traffic signals, idling decreases, reducing vehicle emissions and fuel consumption by 30 percent or more.

For tips on how to use roundabouts, visit the [City's website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ROUNDABOUTS.

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When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS**, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.



CITY EXPANDS ONLINE PRESENCE

STREAMLINING THE JOB APPLICATION PROCESS

In keeping with its commitment to sustainability and to make applying for jobs easier, the City is now offering those seeking employment opportunities with the City of Bloomington the option to complete online applications.

Those interested in employment with the City must set up an online account in order to create an application. Once an account has been established, applications can be saved and used to apply for more than one job opening, saving time and paper.

For more information, visit the [City's website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORD: JOBS.



STAY INFORMED

Check out the City's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. To access these pages, click the icons on the home page of the [City's website](#).

JOIN A COMMISSION

CITY COUNCIL SEEKS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The Bloomington City Council is seeking applicants to serve on its Advisory Board of Health, Human Rights Commission, and Park, Arts and Recreation Commissions. Applications must be received **by Friday, December 28**. For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 952-563-8780.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ADVISORY BOARDS.

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CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION

BLOOMINGTON PROMOTES WELLNESS THROUGH TEAM SPORTS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

The City of Bloomington wants to make it easier for people to be healthy. That's why the City has been working with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Edina and Richfield on the **do.town** initiative to promote healthy living in our communities and support people in their efforts to be healthier.

do.town

Although **do.town** is a newer initiative that has helped pave the way for a healthier Bloomington, the City has a long history of promoting group sports and better nutrition in the community. To encourage more active kids and adults, the City's Parks and Recreation Division offers leagues and programs throughout the year. Team sports are offered at different levels of play – there is a spot for everyone from beginner to serious player. Programs include adult sports leagues, basketball, softball, adaptive softball, tennis, pickleball, volleyball and more.

The City also works closely with community partners to create more opportunities for physical activity. Perhaps one of the longest partnerships the City has is with the Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA).

BAA is currently celebrating 60 years in Bloomington. An all-volunteer sports organization, BAA has grown to provide opportunities for more than 5,800 participants annually in 10 different sports programs. The program

is exclusively run by volunteers. BAA is reported to be the largest volunteer youth sports organization in the country.

BAA was founded in 1953 by Bloomington resident Arne Johnson, who formed an athletic program based on the tenet that all boys should be able to play sports regardless of their skill level or ability to pay. In the early 1960s,

activities including baseball, softball, basketball, hockey and tennis.

However, Johnson was not only interested in the health of Bloomington kids, but also in keeping seniors active, which led him to establish an athletic program for Bloomington men, age 55 and older, called the Born Again Jocks. *See page six.* To honor

Johnson's dedication to enhancing the lives of Bloomington youth, I issued a proclamation that designated August 24 as A Day to Honor Arne Johnson.

Working together with businesses and community partners like BAA and dedicated community members like Johnson, we will create a healthier Bloomington for now and generations to come. So follow Johnson's lead and be more active.

Volunteer in the community. Join a sports team. Exercise. You'll feel healthier in the shorter term and have a better quality of life in the longer term.

December is a good month to get a "jump" start on the traditional New Year's Eve resolution to get in better shape. Resist the urge to hibernate. Be as

active as you can be this winter.

For more information on Parks and Recreation programs, visit the [City's website](#) or call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877. To learn more about BAA, visit the organization's website at [baaonline.org](#).



through the efforts of Betty Lokken, girls' sports were added. The outcome of these efforts was the formation of BAA.

As a result of the organization Johnson founded, more than 5,000 boys and girls between the ages of five and 18 years old annually participate in

PROMOTING HEALTHIER SCHOOLS

STUDENTS GET MORE ACTIVE THROUGH NEW PROGRAMS

Bloomington Public Health is working with the school district to improve students' overall health. This year, the federal government introduced new standards for school meals in an effort to provide healthier meals to children. Through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), Bloomington Public Health is helping several schools implement additional nutrition and physical activity guidelines that will provide for more physical activity during the school day and more opportunities to eat healthier foods.

As part of the SHIP program, Oak Grove and Westwood Elementary schools have established school wellness councils to encourage health and wellness in and out of the classroom. At Oak Grove Elementary, kids in kindergarten through fifth grade now have an additional 50 minutes of physical activity a week, in addition to recess and gym class.

"Healthy children make better learners," Oak Grove Elementary School Principal Raymond Yu said.

"Physical activity increases blood flow and gives kids more energy



throughout the school day. There is also evidence that physical activity decreases anxiety and stress for kids. "

At Westwood elementary, students partnered with a Master Gardener to design and grow their own garden. The

vegetable garden is used to teach kids how to make healthy meals and snacks at home.

Schools are also encouraging families to spend more time in active pursuits. The new "homework" could be something schools haven't assigned for a long time: Go outside and play!

Bloomington Public Health is the lead agency for SHIP in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SHIP.

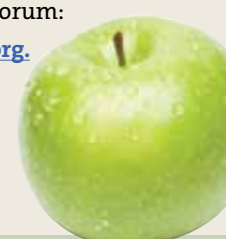
A HEALTHY BLOOMINGTON IS...

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

What does a healthy Bloomington look like to you? Share your ideas on our online forum:

[www.dotownideas.org](#).

do.town



BRIEFING

Volume 20, Number 2

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; [E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us). [Website: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

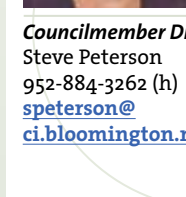


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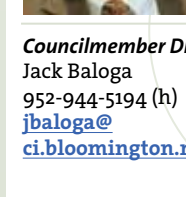
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

2013 GENERAL FUND BUDGET
WORKING TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

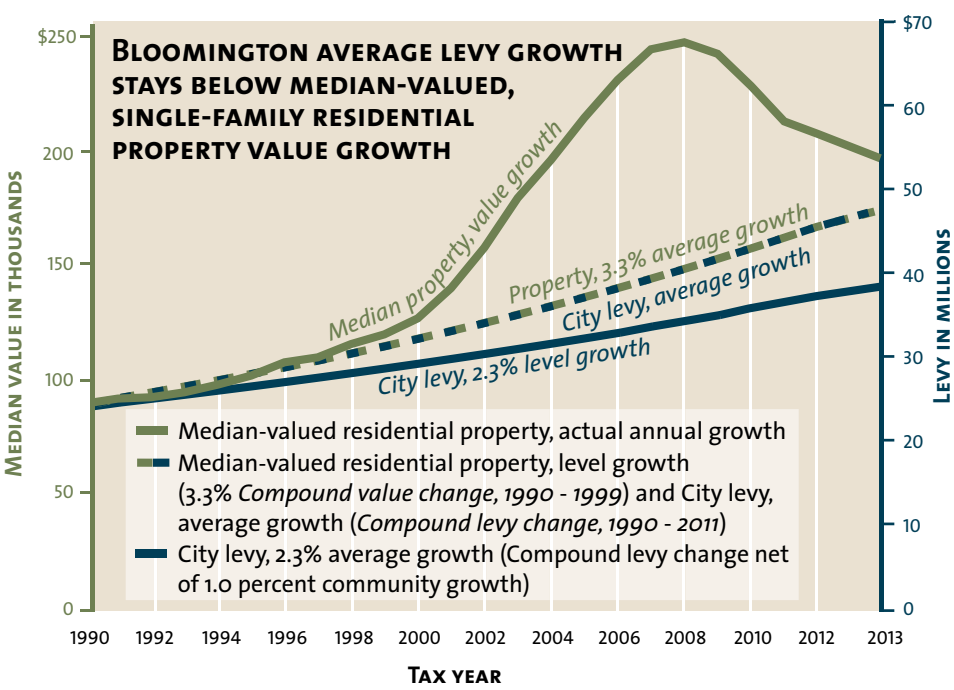
In 2013, Bloomington residents with median-valued homes of \$194,500, will see their monthly cost of City services at \$66.04 for 2013 – \$1.78 less than the \$67.82 for 2010, 2011 and 2012.

On September 10, the City Council approved a preliminary levy of \$47,530,046 for 2013. It also approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$59,515,379, a 4.55 percent increase from the 2012 budget of \$56,927,790.

Between September and December, the Council was able to reduce the proposed levy increase from 6.95 percent to 4.95 percent. The increase results in a \$46,641,219 levy. The General Fund Budget now proposed is \$59,687,288.

The City uses multiyear modeling, developed in the 1990s, to track revenue and expenditures to predict upcoming trends for 2013. City staff also uses a five-year planning model that considers both the short-term and future needs of the community to recommend a preliminary levy.

In providing quality City services that meet public demand, the City continues to be cost effective. The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption. If the 2013 levy is approved at this revised level,



the average annual increase in the City's levy from 1994 - 2013 would be 3.1 percent.

The City developed strategies in the 1990s to deal with normal economic cycle variations that helped make it a more sustainable community as reflected in the recently affirmed AAA bond ratings. In setting the City's property tax levy for 2013, the City Council gave preliminary approval to several community initiatives identified through the recent citizen survey conducted earlier this summer. The City Council prioritized these initiatives, which include park revitalization, developing a community center concept, nuisance enforcement and housing improvement funding, to name a few. The City Council will continue discussion of these initiatives prior to adopting a final levy in December.

One of Bloomington's strengths has been the diversity of the base on which the property tax-supported

City services provided to Bloomington's residents and businesses are allocated. Historically, tax capacity in Bloomington has been split approximately in half between residential, including apartment uses, and commercial/ industrial uses. However, the current economic climate has seen greater variability of real estate values than in better economic times.

"The City levies a specific dollar amount needed to maintain certain levels of services," Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler said.

"In simple terms, this dollar amount is then portioned to all properties in the community based on value."

The City's multiyear modeling indicates that property tax levies over the next five years should remain approximately equal to long-term home value appreciation plus community growth as Bloomington works for the longer term to be even more sustainable.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or e-mail leconomy@ci.bloomington.mn.us. For property valuation information, contact City Assessor Matt Gersemehl at 952-563-8708 or mgersemehl@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

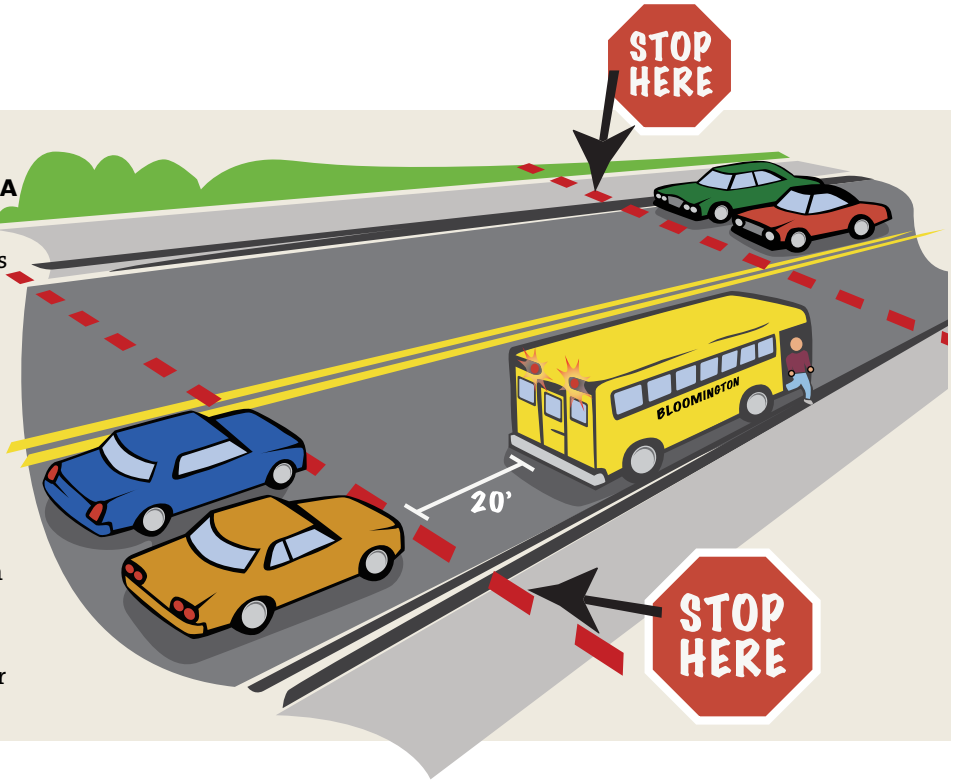
WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FINANCE DEPARTMENT.



SCHOOL BUS STOP SAFETY
BE CAUTIOUS WHEN APPROACHING A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS

In 2012, there were more than 270 reports of school bus stop arm violations in Bloomington. Motorists are required by law to come to a full stop at least 20 feet from the bus when the arm is extended and the lights are flashing. The only exception to this rule is if there is a hard median separating the oncoming traffic from the bus. Remember to always use extreme caution when approaching a stopped school bus. Failure to stop could result in fines and jail time.

For more information, contact Officer Bret Anderberg at 952-563-8861.



SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME
HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is accepting applications beginning January 1 through March 15 for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program. The loans help residents maintain the condition of their homes and neighborhoods.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or is no longer occupied by the owner. Interest is charged at an annual simple rate of 4 percent per year of the original loan principal for the first 10 years. No additional interest accrues after the 10th year.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978. Applications are ranked and processed according to need. Eligible repairs include replacing roofs, electrical, heating and plumbing systems, gutters, windows, doors, insulation and siding.

To qualify for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must own and occupy your home; the home must be at least 10 years old and you must have sufficient equity to cover the loan amount. Maximum gross income limits apply. See table below.

Annual income limits (subject to change)

1 household member	\$45,500
2 household members	\$52,000
3 household members	\$58,500
4 household members	\$65,000
5 household members	\$70,200
6 household members	\$75,400
7 household members	\$80,600
8+ household members	\$85,800

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937 or visit the [City's website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS.

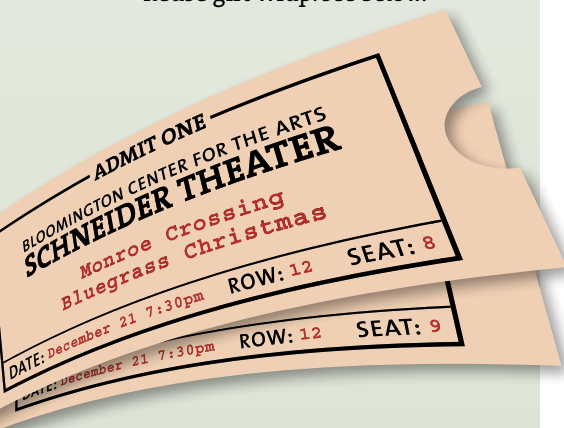


REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE DON'T ADD TO THE NATION'S GARBAGE PILE

According to Hennepin County Environmental Services, on an average day, a typical Minnesotan creates around seven pounds of waste. Yet from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, household waste increases by more than 25 percent. Where does all that extra waste come from?

Added food waste, packaging, wrapping paper and decorations – it adds up to one million tons a week to the nation's landfills. What can you do? The top five sustainable practices are:

- Give gifts that conserve natural resources. *See below.*
- Use reusable tableware.
- Buy LED lights.
- Recycle.
- Reuse gift wrap. *See below.*



GREEN YOUR GIFTS PLAN AHEAD FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING IDEAS

Finding the perfect gift isn't always easy, but with a little planning and creativity, you can find the perfect gifts for everyone on your list with little impact on the environment. Below are fun gift-giving ideas from Do it Green Minnesota.

- Get theater tickets.
- Give an experience – a ride in a hot air balloon or day trip to a spa.
- Create a family recipe book or photo album.
- Offer holiday cards made from recycled paper or make your own.
- Buy a membership to a museum or nonprofit organization.
- Purchase a compost bin, plants or a set of cloth napkins and rings.

Unique gift-wrapping, gift-decorating and packaging ideas:

- Old sheet music.
- Posters and maps.
- Scarves.
- Last year's holiday cards trimmed for gift tags.
- Fabric scraps.
- Biodegradable starch packing peanuts.

For more environmentally friendly gift ideas and tips, visit doitgreen.org.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...

EARTH ACTION HEROES THE TRAILBLAZER

More than 8,000 acres of Bloomington are dedicated to parks and open spaces. Bloomington is also home to countless hiking and biking trails. Resident and hiking enthusiast John Busse has enjoyed traversing many of Bloomington's trails for the more than 30 years he has lived in the city. Now in retirement, he has dedicated himself to restoring the trails he has hiked for so long, so that future generations may follow in his path.

Busse began volunteering for the Carolina Mountain Club in Asheville, North Carolina, where he spends his winters. He restored areas of the Appalachian Trail just north of the Great Smokey Mountains. He decided to apply the skills he learned in North Carolina to Bloomington's trail restoration projects. For someone who loves the outdoors as much as Busse, it is the perfect volunteer opportunity.

"As a long-time hiker who has enjoyed the benefits of these trails, I look at this as an opportunity to give back and help restore the trails for others to follow," he said.

Trail restoration can be labor-intensive work. Projects vary, but may involve repairing or installing steps and water crossings, building switchbacks and even removing intrusive tree roots and creating water diversions to make trails more hiker friendly. It's the kind of work that Busse lives for.

"It gets me out into the woods and forests on trails I love to be on," he said.



"There's no traffic, fax machines or phones intruding on you. It's great."

Busse's most recent project involved repairing a deep ravine in an area that runs just above the main Nine Mile Creek trail. Busse and his wife Kathy used to hike in the area, but it had eroded so badly it was no longer passable for her. Steps built in the 1960s using railroad ties had either rotted or were missing, making passage through the area challenging, if not impossible.

With the help of the City, Busse rebuilt the trail. Using 75 log steps, a stairway was created going down one side of the ravine; four switchbacks made the trail walkable up the other side. All of the materials used to rebuild that trail were taken right from the woods, including the logs, wood stakes and rocks. Along with the log steps, water diversions were built to minimize the effects of erosion.

Busse brought his wife back when the work was complete.

"When I brought her back she successfully hiked this portion of the

trail again, which was all I needed to see," he said. "That was my seal of approval."

Next spring Busse will rebuild additional sections of the trail.



Trail restoration is just one of many volunteer opportunities that the City has to offer. If you love being outdoors and want to help keep Bloomington's parks and trails looking their best, look no further.

For more information on how you can volunteer, visit the City's website.

MAKING YOUR WORLD GREENER



A NEW WAY TO WORK COMMUTER SERVICES

Are you considering a different way to get to work every day? Commuter Services can help by providing the following resources:

- Ridematch list – Individuals with a similar work trip who are interested in sharing the ride.
- Transit information – Personalized trip planner and pocket schedules for the bus or train.
- Bike commuting – Map showing recommended on-street bike routes and off-road bike trails, tips for biking to work, and Minnesota bike laws.

For more information, visit www.494corridor.org.



ARTIFICIAL VS. REAL CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS FOR A HOLIDAY TREE

An artificial tree or a real tree? There are plenty of options for trees, and whether you go with real or fake, both can be environmentally friendly. Here are some good options:

- Potted Norfolk pines or fig trees that can be used every holiday season.
- Live trees sustainably harvested at tree farms.
- Fiber-optic trees that use a single incandescent bulb, transmitting light along each branch.



LEAVE YOUR SHOES AT THE DOOR DON'T TRACK DIRT AND CHEMICALS INTO YOUR HOME

Perhaps the easiest way to cut down on household dirt is to leave shoes at the front door. Taking off your shoes at the door cuts down on 80 percent of dirt and pollutants tracked into a house. To get your family into the habit, place slippers and "indoor" shoes near the front door for easy access.

In the loop



RADISSON BLU OPENING FIRST HOTEL CONNECTED TO MALL

If you've been through the South Loop District lately, you've probably noticed that construction is nearly complete on the 500-room Radisson Blu Hotel adjacent to the Mall of America (MOA).

The hotel is situated on the south side of MOA, near Macy's. Radisson Blu is scheduled to open in March 2013.

A NEW LINDAU LANE TRANSFORMING SOUTH LOOP

South Loop District projects are in the design phase to transform Lindau Lane, located between Mall of America (MOA) and retailer IKEA. The existing street will be reconstructed from TH 77 east to 24th Avenue in 2013 and 2014.

Four blocks of new street from 24th to 28th Avenue will serve multiple uses, including hotel, retail and office. This section of street will be constructed in 2013. Lindau Lane from 28th to 30th Avenue and 30th Avenue from American Boulevard to Old Shakopee Road are also being designed and will be constructed in 2014 and 2015.

The project from 24th to 30th Avenue will incorporate complete street design elements to make the district more pedestrian friendly. Stormwater management will reduce runoff. Creating smaller blocks will improve vehicle circulation, postponing the need for traffic management and intersection improvements.

For more information, contact Julie Long at 952-563-4865 or e-mail jlong@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SOUTH LOOP.



VISIT A WINTER WONDERLAND MALL OF AMERICA ICE CASTLE

This winter, Mall of America will unveil an ice castle standing more than 40 feet tall at its peak and spanning more than one acre. Unlike typical ice structures that are built with ice blocks, the MOA's castle will be made of icicles organically grown from four million gallons of water and fused together. The castle will join 50 large ice towers together to create a series of archways and tunnels. There will also be a children's snow park area. The attraction will be open later this month and will stay open through the end of February, weather permitting.

For ticket information, visit www.mallofamerica.com.

HIGHLY RATED RESIDENTS PRAISE PARKS PROGRAM

A recent citizen survey showed that Bloomington ranked in the top 10 percent for services compared to similar benchmarked communities. Of the 35 services residents were asked to evaluate, many services, such as Parks and Recreation, were rated very highly. City parks, facilities, and Parks and Recreation programs also received ratings that were much higher than the national benchmark.

In addition, the percentage of residents who spent time in a City park was much greater than when compared to other jurisdictions – a total of 87 percent of respondents indicated that they had visited a City park within the past year.



ELECTIONS 2012 RESIDENTS TURN OUT TO VOTE

The voter turnout in Bloomington for the November 6 Presidential Election was 87 percent, compared to 86 percent in the 2008 and 85 percent in 2004. Thanks to the nearly 450 citizens who served as election judges, the City was able to provide an election process that was open, fair, accurate and responsive to the needs of all eligible citizens who chose to exercise the right to vote.

SAFETY MATTERS



ANIMAL CONTROL PROTECT YOUR PETS BE AWARE OF COMMON HOLIDAY HAZARDS

During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it may be easy to forget that some common items you may be using to decorate your home can be fatal for Fido. These items include:

- Christmas tree water (may contain fertilizers and bacteria).
- Electrical cords.
- Ribbons or tinsel.
- Batteries.
- Glass ornaments.

A common misconception is that poinsettia plants are poisonous to pets. Although they may cause stomach upset if ingested, these plants are nontoxic.

For more information, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ANIMAL SHELTER.

DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICINES SAFELY USE ONE OF THE HENNEPIN COUNTY DROP-OFF SITES

An estimated 250 million pounds of unused medicines are disposed of improperly every year. Flushing medications or throwing them in the trash can contaminate water supplies and landfills. Yet keeping old medications can also have negative consequences. Prescription medication abuse is a common problem, especially among teens. Protect yourself, your family and the environment by getting rid of your medicines safely.

Drop box at Southdale Library

Hennepin County has medicine drop boxes in several locations. The one closest to Bloomington is in the lobby of the Southdale Library, 7009 York Avenue, Edina. Drop box hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday, noon - 5 p.m.

Pharmacy drop-off options

Some pharmacies charge for medicine disposal, so ask about your pharmacy's guidelines before you bring them your medications. HealthPartners pharmacies may accept old medications at no cost. Details and a list of excluded medications are available on the HealthPartners website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: MEDICINE DISPOSAL.



ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS AVOID BEING A VICTIM

This holiday season, take a minute or two to review the following safety tips from the Bloomington Police Department.

When not at home

- Set an automatic timer for your lights and ask a neighbor to watch your home and collect mail.
- Turn on an inside light or radio so it appears that someone is home.
- Lock all doors and windows, even if it is for a few minutes.
- Do not place packages or gifts where they are visible from outside.

When out shopping

- Always stay alert. Don't rush or let your guard down.
- Park in well-lighted areas as close to the store entry as possible. Lock your car doors and windows.
- Never carry large amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card instead.
- Carry your purse close to your body. Never leave it in a shopping cart.

When at home

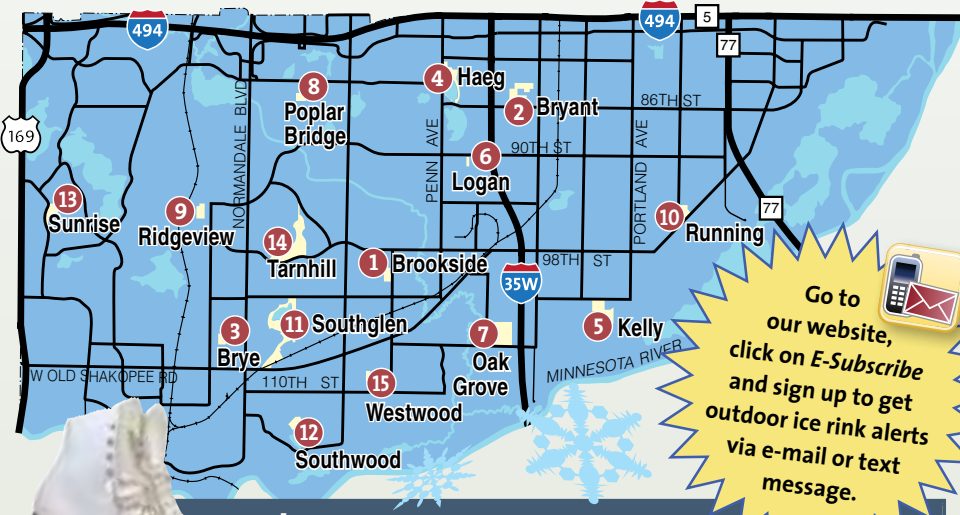
- Turn on an outside light to deter burglars. Report any suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1.
- Ask to see identification and brush up on solicitation guidelines by visiting the City's website. Many con artists take advantage of holiday generosity by going door-to-door and asking for donations.
- Make sure your homeowners or renters insurance is up to date and keep track of the items you purchase.
- Get to know your neighbors by joining the City's Neighborhood Watch Program.

For more information, call Officer Kim Czapar at 952-563-8808 or e-mail kczapar@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



2012-2013 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS AND
WARMING HOUSES

Parks and Recreation will operate 15 outdoor ice skating rink sites this winter. During rink hours, all facilities will be lighted with the exception of Logan Playlot. Some sites are supervised by Parks and Recreation employees during public skating hours. *See below.* Weather permitting, **park shelters will be open Saturday, December 15, 2012, through Monday, February 18, 2013.** For more information, contact Parks and Recreation. For up-to-date rink conditions and closings, call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.



LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

PARK	ADDRESS	STAFFING	RINK		
			General	Hockey	Floodlights
1 Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	Daily	•	•	•
2 Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	Wknds, SRD, Special	•	•	•
3 Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	Wknds, SRD, Special	•	•	•
4 Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.	-----*	•	•	•
5 Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	-----*	•	•	•
6 Logan	1900 W. 91st St.	-----*	•		
7 Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.	Wknds, SRD, Special	•	•	•
8 Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	Wknds, SRD, Special	•	•	•
9 Ridgeview	6001 W. 94th St.	-----*	•	•	•
10 Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	Daily	•	2	•
11 Southglen	10701 Rich Road	-----*	•	•	•
12 Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.	-----*	•	•	•
13 Sunrise	9401 Blmgt. Ferry Rd.	Daily	•	•	•
14 Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	-----*	•	•	•
15 Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	Daily	•	2	•

RINK HOURS

DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)
	Dec 15 - 23 Jan 2 - 20, Jan 23 - Feb 2, Feb 4 - 17	Dec 26 - 31 Jan 21, 22 and Feb 18
M-F	4 p.m. - 9 p.m.	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sa-Su	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

- Lights on at rinks during scheduled hours.
- PLEASE NOTE** Special hours for staffed rinks are 1 - 7 p.m. on the following days:
December 24 and 25, 2012.
January 1, 2013.
February 3, 2013 (Super Bowl Sunday).

**Staffed on a volunteer basis only. Schedules are posted on the website. To volunteer, contact Jackie Doncavage at 952-563-4949.*



BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN
ENJOY OUR INDOOR SKATING RINKS

Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, has three indoor ice rinks available for public skating and adult open hockey. Professional instructors are available to offer a variety of skating lessons for children and adults.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: BIG.

STAYING ACTIVE YEAR-ROUND

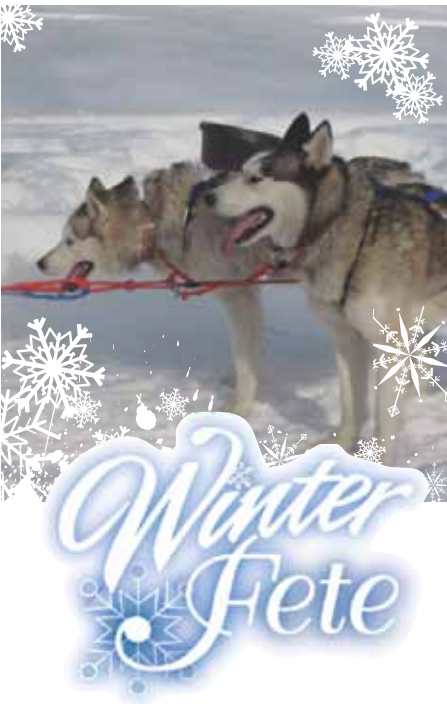
CELEBRATE WINTER
CITY’S ANNUAL EVENT IS BACK

Join Bloomington Parks and Recreation and local sponsors in welcoming winter during the 11th annual Winter Fete celebration.

Winter Fete activities will take place throughout the city, **Saturday, January 19, through Sunday, January 27.** Once again the City will host an Ice Fishing Event and Winter Fete History Festival on **Sunday, January 27,** and other exciting events during this weeklong celebration.

All activities are free, unless otherwise noted, and fun for the whole family! For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WINTER FETE.



LEARN TO SKATE!
A VARIETY OF CLASSES ARE
AVAILABLE FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

Bloomington Ice Garden offers skating lessons year-round, for people of all ages and abilities. From basic skating to speed skating to hockey skills, BIG offers a variety of classes in an exceptional learning environment.

Registration is required. For more information, e-mail Bloomington Skate School at BloomingtonSkateSchool@yahoo.com, contact BIG at 952-563-8841 or visit the [City’s website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORD: BIG.



ENJOY PLAYING
VOLLEYBALL?
MEET THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS

The Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men, 55 years and older, of all skill levels. Games are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m., at Jefferson High School, 4001 West 102nd Street and Kennedy High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue. For more information, call Don Wilkie at 952-884-2146 or Don Wagner at 952-831-4460.

DREAMING OF WARMER WEATHER?
RESERVE PICNIC SHELTERS FOR YOUR NEXT OUTDOOR EVENT



Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for next year’s picnics, receptions, reunions and meetings. Registration begins **January 2 for use April through mid-October.** Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails and softball fields.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PICNIC SHELTER RENTAL.

EAST BUSH LAKE PARK

9140 East Bush Lake Road.
Shelter 3: Accommodates 200.
\$303 + tax.

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th Street at West Bush Lake Road.
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200.
\$230 + tax.
Shelter 2: Accommodates 100.
\$156 + tax.

MOIR PARK

104th Street at Morgan Avenue.
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+.
\$230 + tax.
Shelter 2: Accommodates 50.
\$156 + tax.





VOLUNTEERS IN DEMAND
GET A HEAD START ON SUMMER

If you can't wait for warmer weather to return, start thinking about signing up to volunteer for Bloomington Parks and Recreation spring and summer programs. Participating in these programs is an enjoyable, rewarding experience and a great way to give back to your community. Volunteer positions are available at a variety of programs and events, including Camp Kota, Summer Adventure Playgrounds, Farmers Market and adaptive softball.

For more details on these opportunities, contact Parks and Recreation or e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOLUNTEER.

HAVE FUN THIS WINTER



JOIN THE CLUB
ENJOY ALL DWAN GOLF CLUB HAS TO OFFER

Dwan offers both men's and women's clubs, beginning the last week of April through the end of August.

Dwan's Men's Club, a member of the Minnesota Public Golf Association, organizes golf leagues and tournaments at Dwan Golf Club. Applications to join the Men's Club are accepted beginning in January. For more information, contact James Hild at 952-887-5028 or e-mail membership@dwanmensclub.com.

Dwan offers two clubs for women, a 9-Hole Club and an 18-Hole Club. For more information on the 9-Hole Club, contact Barb Carpenter at 952-881-6838 or e-mail barb.carp@yahoo.com. To register for the 18-Hole Club, contact Judy Dahlen at 952-942-0007 or e-mail tjdahlen@earthlink.net.

COME INSIDE AT DWAN

Not thinking about your golf game just yet? There's plenty to do inside at the Dwan clubhouse, 3301 West 110th Street. The clubhouse serves breakfast and lunch. Card players are always welcome. Winter hours are Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Take a virtual tour of Dwan Golf Club by visiting the [City's website](#)

WEBSITE KEYWORD: DWAN.



PUT THE FREEZE ON WINTER FIRES

MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

According to the National Fire Protection Association, home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season. This is due, in part, to an increase in cooking and heating fires. Bloomington Fire Prevention recommends the following tips to prevent home fires:

- Choose holiday decorations that are nonflammable or flame-resistant. Keep lights away from heat vents.
- Keep lit candles away from things that can burn.
- Replace holiday lights that have worn cords, frayed wires or loose or broken bulb connections. Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so cords aren't damaged.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Wires should not be warm to the touch.
- Test all smoke alarms.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Store matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stove top.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

For information, contact Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967 or gugal@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION.

DID YOU KNOW?
KEEP YOUR TREE WATERED

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that Christmas trees account for 240 home fires annually and more than \$16.7 million in property damage. A dry tree can easily be ignited by heat, flames or sparks. Remember to keep your tree watered.



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Located in Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing seven arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, visit www.btacmn.org and click on Exhibitions, or call 952-563-8575.

GALLERY HOURS

Hours:	M - F	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
	Sa	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Su	1 - 10 p.m.

For all theater tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
CENTER FOR THE ARTS.



INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

GIFTS IN THE GALLERY



Visit the Gifts in the Gallery annual sale, **December 5 - 19**, for one-of-a-kind, artist-created gifts for the holiday season. The gallery will be transformed into a holiday shopping "winter wonderland" where 50 excellent artists will display and sell their unique gift items.

ATRIUM GALLERY

INSTRUCTOR-STUDENT ART SHOW

The annual Instructor-Student Art Show is taking place now **through December 28**, in the Atrium Gallery. This is a wonderful opportunity to view a sampling of the beautiful work being done in our classrooms.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

BLUEGRASS CHRISTMAS



Monroe Crossing will perform traditional Christmas carols such as *Silver Bells*, *Holly Jolly Christmas* and *Up on the Housetop*, all adorned with a warm and fuzzy bluegrass feel, **Friday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.**

Tickets are \$25 adults; \$22 seniors and \$18 students.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

The Medalist Concert Band will get you in the holiday spirit with the sounds of holiday favorites like *Jingle Bells* and *Silent Night*, **Sunday, December 16, 4 p.m.**

Tickets are \$12 adults; \$10 seniors/ students.

BLACK BOX THEATER

MUSIC OF THE MASTERS



The Bloomington Chorale performs the works of such revered composers as Handel and Bach and modern masters Irving Berlin and LeRoy Anderson, **Friday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.** and **Saturday, December 15, 4 p.m.**

Tickets are \$15 adults; \$11 seniors/ students.

A HOT CHRISTMAS

Celebrate the holidays with jazz standards by vocalist Lee Engele, guitarists Joan Griffith and Reynold Philipsek and violinist Gary Schulte, **Friday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.** and **Saturday, December 22, 2 p.m.**

Tickets are \$20 adults; \$18 seniors and \$15 students.



WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. When that happens, no parking is allowed on any city street for the following 48 hours or until the street has been plowed from curb to curb.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

OBSTACLE COURSE PREPARES DRIVERS FOR SNOW



They may not be wearing cowboy hats, but they have the boots and the skills to navigate around almost any winter weather obstacle, thanks to the practice they get during the annual snowplow rodeo held in October.

The rodeo, in this case, is a series of winding courses set up at the Public Works' Western Maintenance Facility. For 20 years, the rodeo has given new and seasoned snowplow drivers the opportunity to practice their driving before a real snow emergency occurs. Drivers must contend with junk cars, mailboxes and other obstacles while trying to maneuver through a narrow, figure-eight-shaped course.

Public Works Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler tries to make the course as realistic as possible by strategically placing metal rods around the course. If a driver hits one of the rods hard enough, they've done damage to what could be someone's mailbox or car.

"The rodeo course is designed to teach and test drivers' skills," Eiler said. "Drivers make several rounds through the course. It is an excellent practice to prepare drivers for the real thing."

SAFETY REMINDER

KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Many people rely on sidewalks to get where they need to go. Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and other objects such as recycling bins ensures safe travel for everyone.

The City asks that all residents and business owners help in keeping public sidewalks free of fresh snow, as well as any snow that may be deposited as a result of snow removal from streets and driveways. In addition, it is illegal for any vehicle to block a public sidewalk.

SNOW REMOVAL REFRESHER

WEATHERING THE (SNOW) STORM

There's no getting around it. Winter in Minnesota brings snow – sometimes a little, often a lot, but always snow. The City helps residents get through it, literally, with snowplowing services at a cost of \$2.41 per month for the owner of a median-valued home. The City of Bloomington prides itself on its snow removal services. However, residents can help the City provide even better service during the snowy winter months. These illustrations show what you can do before and during a snow incident. Please follow these tips for a safe winter.



PARKING GUIDELINES

4 Bloomington Police enforce the parking ban in a snow emergency. *See top left sidebar.* This ensures that all streets get fully plowed during a snowstorm. In case of a snow emergency, park in your driveway. To find out if a snow emergency has been declared, visit the [City's website](#) or call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.



To receive snow alerts, scan the *QR code, below left*; or visit the City's website, click on *E-Subscribe* and sign up to receive e-mail or text message updates. You may also follow our snow alerts on Facebook and Twitter.



CHILD SAFETY

5 Never allow children to build tunnels or snow forts in snow banks near the street. The force and weight of the snow coming off the plows can collapse the tunnels or forts and may severely harm a child.

6 Keep sleds and toys out of the street and far away from the edge of the road. Snowbanks make it difficult for plow operators to see children in these areas. Children should never play near the edge of the road.

MINIMIZE UNSAFE DRIVING CONDITIONS

7 After a snowstorm, the City makes every effort to clear snow as quickly as possible. Snowplows may plow already-shoveled snow into driveways. To reduce the chance that you'll have to shovel more than once, wait to clear the end of your driveway until the plows have completed plowing your street.

8 Shovel, plow and blow snow away from the street.

9 Stake the edge of the sidewalk along your property to help reduce sod damage associated with plowing. The City recommends lightweight wooden stakes such as those available at most home improvement stores. Mark only the side closest to the house to give plow operators the room they need. (The machines need a minimum 55 inches of clearance.) Keep in mind these markers should be temporary. They should easily give if hit without damaging the plow equipment.



For more information, visit the [City's website](#) or contact Public Works at 952-563-8760.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SNOW EMERGENCY.